(d) and (e) A scheme has been approved by the Government for extending financial assistance to deep sea/mechanized fishing vessles for converting to mono-filament tuna long liners to harvest the tuna resources. Under the scheme, MPEDA-provides financial assistance @ 50% of the cost for modification of deep-sea fishing vessels up to a maximum of Rs. 15 lakh and a maximum of Rs. 7.50 lakh for mechanized vessels for converting to mono-filament tuna long liner.

Special assistance for development of tea industry in Assam

1648. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to give special assistance for the development of tea industry in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the time-frame fixed for the purpose; and

(c) whether the industry would also be required to contribute its own share for the purpose in addition to the Government's assistance and if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to grant any special assistance for the development of tea industry in Assam. However, Government proposes to set up a Special Purpose Tea Fund for financing replantation and rejuvenation of old tea bushes, which would be available to all tea gardens in the country including Assam. Financing from the Special Purpose Tea Fund would include borrowers' contribution, the exact quantum of which is being finalized.

FDI in townships in SEZs

1649. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 100 percent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in townships does not apply to projects located in Special Economic Zones;